

Message Text

PAGE 01 BANGKO 01276 210507Z

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ACTION EA-09

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R 210444Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7049

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1276

SONGKHLA 015 DATED JANUARY 19, 1976 BEING REPEATED TO YOU
FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS TH

SUBJ: PATTANI TEACHERS RETURN TO WORK

REF: SONGKHLA 012

1. JANUARY 19 SAW ALL SCHOOLS REOPENING IN SOUTH, WITH EXCEP-
TION OF PRINCE OF SONGKHLA (PSU) CAMPUS HAAD YAI.
PSU PATTANI TEACHERS AND STUDENTS MOSTLY BACK. PSU HAAD YAI
TEACHERS HAVE NEVER BEEN ON STRIKE, BUT HAAD YAI STUDENTS
(OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE NON-MUSLIM) ARE STILL ON
STRIKE. THEY SEEM A BIT MORE RADICAL THAN OTHER STUDENTS
IN SOUTH AND HAVE MASTER-MINDED--HOWEVER FEEBLY--MOST
OF ANTI-RTG STATEMENTS AS
ALLIES HERE.

2. PROBLEM UNIVERSITIES HAVE HERE IS THAT DEMOAT HEART
IS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MUSLIMS A D RTG, NOT FIGHT OF STUDENTS

AGAINST LOCAL UNIVERSITIES. THEREFORE, SCHOOLS HAVE
STATED THAT LOST TIME MUST BE MADE UP AND ARE EXTENDING SCHOOL
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 01276 210507Z

YEAR. EXPECT THAT DECISION TOOK A NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND

FACULTY OUT OF HOLIDAY DEMONSTRATING AND BACK TO SCHOOLWORK.

3. SEVERAL THOUSAND MUSLIM DEMONSTRATORS CONTINUE GATHER AT PATTANI MOSQUE, SO WHILE WHITE-COLLAR PEOPLE BACK AT WORK, DEMO STILL GOES ON. IT APPEARS NOW THAT DESPITE LARGE PRESS PLAY ABOUT STRIKE OF MUSLIM CIVIL SERVANTS IN SUPPORT DEMO, THESE MUSLIM ACTUALLY TOOK ANNUAL LEAVE AS MEEK ATTEMPT TO PLEASE BOTH SIDES IN DEMO AND NOT RISK LOSING JOBS.

4. EVEN THOUGH OUTSIDERS AND NON-MUSLIMS SEEM LOSING SOME INTEREST IN PATTANI AFFAIR, MUSLIMS THEMSELVES--WHO HAVE MAIN AND ORIGINAL GRIEVANCE--STILL PERSIST. THE LONGER THEY CONTINUE, THE BETTER IDEA THEY GET OF THEIR INHERENT STRENGTH AND RTG WEAKNESS IN MUSLIM PROVINCES.

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